

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

JASON R. MUÑOZ, on behalf of himself,)
and all other plaintiffs similarly situated,) **№. 18 cv**
known and unknown,)
)
Plaintiff,) **Judge**
)
v.) **Magistrate Judge**
)
DELTaura USA, Inc., DAVID)
PARAMSOTHY, INDIVIDUALLY, AND) **JURY DEMAND**
JONILY JOVAN, INDIVIDUALLY)
)
Defendants.)

COMPLAINT

NOW COMES Plaintiff, **JASON R. MUÑOZ**, on behalf of himself and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, by and through his attorney, JOHN W. BILLHORN, and for his Complaint against Defendants, **DELTaura USA, Inc., DAVID PARAMSOTHY, INDIVIDUALLY, AND JONILY JOVAN, INDIVIDUALLY**, states as follows:

I. NATURE OF ACTION

1. This action is brought under the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §201, *et seq.*, the Portal-to-Portal Act, 29 U.S.C. §251 *et seq.* and the Illinois Minimum Wage Law, 820 ILCS §105/1 *et seq.*

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. Jurisdiction arises under the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 206-207, the Portal-to-Portal Act, 29 U.S.C. §251 *et seq.*, and for the supplemental Illinois statutory claims, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367. Venue lies in the Northern District of Illinois in that during all times relevant to the employment relationship, Plaintiff performed work in this district and is a resident of this district and Defendants are or was engaged in business in this district.

III. THE PARTIES

3. Defendant, **DETAURA USA, INC.**, provides transportation services to industry. Defendant **DETAURA USA, INC.**, is an “enterprise” engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of Section 29 U.S.C. §203(s)(1)(A)(i) and based upon information and belief formed after reasonably inquiry, satisfies the minimum annual gross sales dollar amount required by 29 U.S.C. §203(s)(1)(A)(ii). During all relevant times, Defendant was acting directly or indirectly in the interest of the employer in relation to the employee Plaintiff and therefore, as defined under both the federal and state statutes relied upon, is an “employer.”

4. Defendants **DAVID PARAMSOTHY, INDIVIDUALLY, AND JONILY JOVAN, INDIVIDUALLY**, are owners and/or engaged in active management of **DETAURA USA, INC.**, and were involved in significant aspects of the corporation’s day-to-day operations including the compensation policies and practices of employees and, at all times relevant hereto, were acting directly or indirectly in the interest of the employer in relation to the employee Plaintiff. Therefore, as defined under both the federal and state statutes relied upon, Defendants **DAVID PARAMSOTHY, INDIVIDUALLY, AND JONILY JOVAN, INDIVIDUALLY**, are “employers”.

5. Plaintiff, **JASON R. MUÑOZ** (hereinafter referred to as “the named Plaintiff”), is a former employee who performed customer service/dispatch services for Defendants and was compensated as a salary exempt employee and denied overtime compensation for hours worked in excess of 40 in a workweek. All other unnamed Plaintiffs known and unknown (hereinafter referred to as “members of the Plaintiff Class” or “similarly situated Plaintiffs”), are past or present employees who work or worked for Defendants and were improperly classified as salary exempt and denied overtime for work in excess of 40 hours in a work

week. As an employee performing duties for an enterprise engaged in commerce, the named Plaintiff and all members of the Plaintiff Class were also engaged in commerce as defined by the FLSA.

6. The claims brought herein by the named Plaintiff are identical or similar to the claims of other past and present employees who were subject to the non-compliant policies and practices alleged herein. Those past and present employees are entitled to receive Notice of these proceedings and afforded opportunity to join their individual claims.

7. The total amount of hours worked by Plaintiff and members of the Plaintiff Class, and therefore the total number of overtime hours for which additional compensation is owed, is information that is substantially, if not completely, within the control and possession of Defendants, in that Defendants recorded or should have recorded such hours pursuant to the record keeping requirements found Title 29 CFR, Part 516.

IV. STATUTORY VIOLATIONS

Collective Action Under The Fair Labor Standards Act

8. Pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §216(b), Count I of this action is brought by Plaintiff as an opt-in representative or collective action, on behalf of himself and other Plaintiffs similarly situated who have been damaged by Defendants' failure to comply with 29 U.S.C. §201 *et seq.* and §251 *et seq.* Count II alleges a willful violation of the FLSA and seeks an additional third year of limitations. Count III seeks liquidated damages under the Fair Labor Standards Act, Section 260.

Illinois Minimum Wage Law

9. Pursuant to the Illinois Minimum Wage Law, 820 ILCS §105/1 *et seq.*, Count IV of this action is brought by Plaintiff to recover unpaid back wages earned on or before the date three (3) years prior to the filing of this action. Each and every Plaintiff who joins this case in the future shall specifically adopt and assert the claims made under this Count IV.

V. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS RELEVANT TO ALL COUNTS

10. Plaintiff, at all times pertinent to the cause of action, was employed by Defendants, said employment being integral and indispensable to Defendants' business.

11. During Plaintiff's employment, Defendants paid Plaintiff on an exempt salary compensation plan. The job duties of Plaintiff, and members of the Plaintiff class who were similarly classified, did not and do not qualify under any of the salary exemptions established by the FLSA.

12. Plaintiff, and members of the Plaintiff class, worked in excess of forty (40) hours in a workweek without pay for all hours worked over forty (40) at a rate of time and one-half their regular hourly rate of pay, pursuant to the requirements of the federal and state statutes herein relied upon.

13. Defendants have, both in the past and presently, willfully employed members of the Plaintiff Class, including the named Plaintiff, requiring work to be performed during their lunch break without pay for that time.

14. Additionally, Plaintiff and members of the Plaintiff class are/were required to perform work off the clock in the evening and overnight on a weekly basis, and Defendants required them to be available "on-call" at all times to answer and respond to telephone calls as needed. In some instances, that unpaid time should have been compensated at time and one-half the workers' regular hourly rates because if the unpaid time was properly treated as compensable, the workers would have been over 40 hours in particular workweeks. In other instances, the unpaid time should have compensated at the workers' regular hourly rates.

COUNT I

VIOLATION OF FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

1-14. Paragraphs 1 through 14 are re-alleged and incorporated as though set forth fully herein as paragraphs 1 through 14 of this Count I.

15. Pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §201 *et seq.*, and the Portal-to-Portal Act, 29 U.S.C. §251 *et seq.*, the named Plaintiff, and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, known and unknown, are entitled to compensation for all hours worked and compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours, in any week during the two (2) years preceding the filing of this action.

16. Defendants have at all times relevant hereto failed and refused to pay compensation to their employees, including the named Plaintiff herein, and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, known and unknown, as described above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, known and unknown, respectfully requests this Court to enter an order:

(a) awarding back pay equal to the amount of all unpaid overtime compensation for the two (2) years preceding the filing of this Complaint, according to the applicable statute of limitations;

(b) awarding prejudgment interest with respect to the total amount of unpaid overtime compensation;

(c) awarding Plaintiff's reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred as a result of Defendants' violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act; and,

(d) for such additional relief as the Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

COUNT II

WILLFUL VIOLATION OF THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

1-16 Paragraphs 1 through 16 of Count I are realleged and incorporated as though set forth fully herein as Paragraphs 1 through 16 of Count II.

17. Defendants' actions as complained of above were done with Defendants' knowledge that the compensation policies and practices at issue were in violation of the statutes alleged, or with a reckless disregard for whether or not the policies and practices were in violation of those statutes. Through legal counsel as well as industry experience and custom, Defendants possessed ample access to the regulations and statutory provisions relating to salary classification under the state and federal laws recited herein, but either failed to seek out such information and guidance or did seek out the information and guidance but failed to adhere to the principles of compliance as stated.

18. Pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, Plaintiff and all other employees similarly situated, past or present, are entitled to compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40), in the three (3) years preceding the filing of this complaint.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, known and unknown, respectfully requests this Court to enter an order:

- (a) awarding back pay equal to the amount of all unpaid compensation for one (1) additional year, totaling three (3) years preceding the filing of this Complaint;
- (b) awarding prejudgment interest with respect to the amount of unpaid overtime compensation;
- (c) awarding Plaintiff's reasonable attorney's fees and Court costs incurred as a result of Defendants' violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act; and
- (d) for such additional relief the Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

COUNT III

**LIQUIDATED DAMAGES
UNDER THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT**

1-18. Paragraphs 1 through 18 of Count II are re-alleged and incorporated as though set forth fully herein as Paragraphs 1 through 18 of Count III.

19. In denying the named Plaintiff and members of the Plaintiff Class compensation as described above, Defendants' acts were not based upon good faith or reasonable grounds. Through legal counsel as well as industry experience and custom, Defendants possessed ample access to the regulations and statutory provisions relating to salary classification under the state and federal laws recited herein, but either failed to seek out such information and guidance or did seek out the information and guidance but failed to adhere to the principles of compliance as stated.

20. The named Plaintiff and all other past and present employees similarly situated, known and unknown, are entitled to liquidated damages equal to the amount of all unpaid compensation, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §260.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, known and unknown, respectfully requests this Court to enter an order:

(a) awarding liquidated damages equal to the amount of all unpaid compensation;

(b) awarding Plaintiff's reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred as a result of Defendants' violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act; and

(c) for such additional relief the Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

COUNT IV

SUPPLEMENTAL STATE LAW CLAIM
VIOLATION OF THE ILLINOIS MINIMUM WAGE LAW

1-20. Paragraphs 1 through 20 of Count III are re-alleged and incorporated as though set forth fully herein as Paragraphs 1 through 20 of this Count IV.

21. As described in the foregoing paragraphs, Defendants' compensation policies and practices are in violation of the Illinois Minimum Wage Law, 820 ILCS §115/1 *et seq.*

22. The Illinois Minimum Wage Law provides that an employer who fails to pay the required amount of wages due an employee under the law shall be liable to the underpaid

employee or employees for the unpaid wages and for an additional penalty in the amount of 2% of the amount of such underpayments for each month following the date such underpayments remain unpaid.

23. Defendants' failure to pay compensation as described above, has been willful and/or in bad faith.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, known and unknown, respectfully requests this Court to enter an order:

(a) declaring and decreeing Defendants' compensation practices as described herein, and such other violations which may come to light during the prosecution of this matter, in violation of the provisions of the Illinois Minimum Wage Law;

(b) awarding an amount of damages, to be shown by the evidence, to which Plaintiff and other members of the Plaintiff Class are entitled;

(c) allowing this Court to retain jurisdiction of the case until such time it is assured Defendants have remedied the compensation policies and practices complained of herein and are determined to be in full compliance with the law;

(d) directing Defendants to pay to Plaintiff's reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and litigation expenses, as provided by statute;

(e) for such additional relief the Court deems just and appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

Electronically Filed 07/03/2018

/s/ John W. Billhorn

John William Billhorn

BILLHORN LAW FIRM
53 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 840
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 853-1450

Attorney for Plaintiff, and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, known or unknown.